

**CLAIM AMENDMENTS**

1. – 10. (Canceled)

11. (Currently Amended) Packaging for a bandage having a patient-contacting surface with a peripheral edge, the patient-contacting surface, including an absorbent layer completely surrounded by an adhesive that extends to the peripheral edge in all directions, comprising:

first and second removable sheets, both extending beyond the peripheral edge of the bandage and peripherally joined so that the bandage is contained between the removable sheets until use; and

wherein only one of sheets is in direct contact with the entire adhesive on the patient-contacting surface until that sheet is removed.

12. (Previously Presented) The packaging of claim 11, wherein the first and second removable sheets are made of paper.

13. – 14. (Canceled)

15. (Previously Presented) The packaging of claim 11, wherein one of the first and second removable sheets includes a dog-ear tab to assist in removal.

16. (Currently Amended) A bandage construction, consisting of:

a bandage portion having a patient-contacting front surface with an adhesive, a back surface and a peripheral edge; and

a packaging portion including first and second removable sheets, both extending beyond the peripheral edge of the bandage, and

wherein the first and second removable sheets are peripherally joined so that the bandage is contained in a flattened, unfolded state between the removable sheets until use.

17. (Previously Presented) The bandage construction of claim 16, wherein the first and second removable sheets are made of paper.

18. – 19. (Canceled)

20. (Previously Presented) The bandage construction of claim 16, wherein one of the first and second removable sheets includes a dog-ear tab to assist in removal.

21. (Previously Presented) The bandage construction of claim 16, wherein the first and second removable sheets are peripherally joined with an adhesive.

22. – 26. (Canceled)

27. (Previously Presented) A method of applying a bandage, comprising the steps of:  
providing the bandage construction of claim 16;  
removing one of the first and second removable sheets to expose the entire patient-contacting front surface;

applying the bandage portion to a recipient using the adhesive; and  
removing the other removable sheet from the back surface of the bandage portion.

28. (Currently Amended) A bandage construction, consisting of:  
a bandage portion with a patient-contacting surface including an absorbent layer and an adhesive; and  
two removable packaging sheets, one on either side of the bandage portion, such that only one of the sheets acts as a release layer to expose the adhesive for use.

29. – 42. (Canceled)

43 (Previously Presented) The bandage construction of claim 16, wherein:  
the bandage portion has two ends and a mid section; and

wherein bandage portion is tapered such that the mid section is wider than one or both of the ends.

44. (Previously Presented) The bandage construction of claim 28, wherein:  
the bandage portion has two ends and a mid section; and  
wherein bandage portion is tapered such that the mid section is wider than one or both of the ends.

45. (New) A bandage construction, comprising:  
a bandage portion having a user-contacting front surface with an adhesive, a back surface and a peripheral edge;  
a packaging portion including first and second removable sheets, both extending beyond the peripheral edge of the bandage portion, the first and second removable sheets being peripherally joined so that the bandage is contained in a flattened, unfolded state between the removable sheets until use;  
the first removable sheet having an inner surface facing the user-contacting front surface of the bandage portion, and the second removable sheet having an inner surface facing the back surface of the bandage portion; and  
wherein the inner surface of the first removable sheet is less adherent than the inner surface of the second removable sheet, enabling the first removable sheet to be removed from the bandage portion before the second removable sheet is removed from the bandage portion.

46. (New) The bandage construction of claim 45, wherein one of the first and second removable sheets includes a dog-ear tab to assist in removal.

47. (New) A bandage construction, comprising:  
a bandage portion having a user-contacting front surface with an adhesive, a back surface and a peripheral edge;  
a packaging portion including first and second removable sheets, both extending beyond the peripheral edge of the bandage portion, the first and second removable sheets being

peripherally joined so that the bandage is contained in a flattened, unfolded state between the removable sheets until use;

the first removable sheet having an inner surface facing the user-contacting front surface of the bandage portion, and the second removable sheet having an inner surface facing the back surface of the bandage portion; and

wherein the inner surface of the first removable sheet includes a non-stick surface, enabling the first removable sheet to be removed from the bandage portion before the second removable sheet is removed from the bandage portion.

48. (New) The bandage construction of claim 47, wherein one of the first and second removable sheets includes a dog-ear tab to assist in removal.